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TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attorney Docket No.: SI1-2627-U-C5

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" mailing Label No. ER443876609US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature of Depositor

Rhonda Goodloe

Print Name of Depositor Date: December 2, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No.: 3734 )  
Applicant: EASTERBROOK, Eric T. )  
Serial No.: 10/066,408 ) Art Unit:  
Filed: January 30, 2002 ) 3725  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ) Examiner:  
IMPROVING THE FATIGUE LIFE OF ) CRANE, D.  
COMPONENTS AND STRUCTURES )

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BEFORE  
MAILING DATE OF EITHER A FINAL OFFICE ACTION OR  
NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the mailing date of the first Office action on the merits, but before the mailing date of either:

- (1) a final action under § 1.113 or
  - (2) a notice of allowance under § 1.311,
- whichever event occurs first.

Accompanying this transmittal is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an Information Disclosure Statement under 1.97(c) (\$180.00).

Date: December 2, 2003

Phone: 253-859-9128

Fax: 253-859-8915

Customer No. 20793

Respectfully submitted,

R. Reams Goodloe, Jr.  
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY

R. Reams Goodloe, Jr.  
Reg. No. 32,466

24722-104th Avenue, S.E.  
Suite 102  
Kent, Washington  
98030-5322



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Sir:

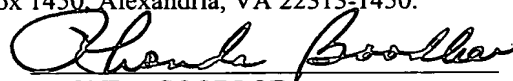
The following sections are being submitted for this  
Information Disclosure Statement:

1. ☒ Preliminary Statements.
2. ☒ Time of Filing.
3. ☒ FORMS PTO/SB08a and 08B (formerly FORM PTO 1449).
4. ☒ Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed  
Information was Already Cited and for Which No Copies  
Are Submitted or Need to be Submitted.
5. ☐ Cumulative Patents or Publications.
6. ☒ Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This  
Statement.
7. ☒ Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents.
8. ☒ Identification of Person(s) Making This Information  
Disclosure Statement.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee, mailing label No.: ER443876609US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: December 2, 2003

  
RHONDA GOODLOE

**1. Preliminary Statements**

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications and other information of which he is aware which he believes may possibly be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR § 1.197(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, (37 CFR § 1.97(h) or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

If documents are disclosed that, based on date of publication, may not be prior art to the applicant, then such publications are merely offered for consideration with respect to the state of development of the art, and shall in no way be considered as admissions against interest in any manner.

**2. Time of Filing**

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a final office action or notice of allowance. (37 CFR § 1.97(c)(2)).

**3. Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO 1449)**

See attached PTO Form SB-08A - Citation in Application.

**4. Identification of Prior Application In Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies are Submitted or Need to be Submitted.**

☒ Current application 10/066,408 filed January 30, 2002, claims priority under 35 USC § 120 and was a continuation-in-part from prior copending U.S. Application Serial No. 10/057,303 filed January 23, 2002 [now abandoned] which claimed priority under 35 USC § 120 and was a continuation-in-part of prior copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/858,325 filed May 15, 2001, which claims priority under 35 USC § 120 and was a continuation-in-part of prior copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/668,769 filed September 22, 2000, which was a continuation-in-part of prior copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/401,065 filed September 22, 1999 (now patent 6,230,537, issued May 15, 2001), which application claimed priority under 35 USC § 120 and was a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/270,428 filed March 16, 1999 which claimed priority under 35 USC § 119 (e) from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No.: 60/078,356 filed March 17, 1998.

☒ Therefore, references which were submitted to, and/or cited by, the Office in the prior application(s) are not required to be provided in this application, in accord with 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (d).

**5. Cumulative Patents or Publications**

☐ Statement \_\_\_\_\_ is cumulative of the following patents or publications listed on Forms PTO/SB/8A and 08B (formerly PTO-1449).

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98(c), a copy of only \_\_\_\_\_ is being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement.

6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO 1449) accompany this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the International Search Report in the companion PCT case - International Application No.: PCT/US02/15526 mailed 27 August 2002.

A copy of the International Search Report in the companion PCT case - International Application No. PCT/US01/29944 mailed 23 January 2002.

A copy of the International Search Report in the companion PCT case - International Application No. PCT/US99/05700 mailed 21 July 1999.

☒ Exceptions to the above:

- ☒ Items which were disclosed in the prior application, from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4; such items not submitted are marked by "\*\*\*" asteriks on PTO Form SB/08A (formerly PTO Form 1449).
- ☐ Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

7. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents

Japan patent 60-216931 A contained only an abstract in the English language. The patent is not translated into the English language. A written English language translation is not within the possession, custody or control of any individual designated in Section 1.56(c). The abstract was submitted to the Office in the prior application and, therefore, is not required to be provided in this application in accord with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (d).

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The remainder of the foreign patents described above were translated into the English language, which translations were submitted to the Office in the prior application and, therefore, are not required to be provided in this application in accord with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (d).

8. Identification of Person(s) Making This INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventors and information in the practitioner's file, all of which have been reviewed by the practitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 2, 2003

Phone: 253-859-9128

Fax: 253-859-8915

Customer No. 20793



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

R. Reams Goodloe, Jr.  
Reg. No. 32,466

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